Science Communication Assistant



Project Title	Science Communication Assistant
Project Summary	Work with the Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery at Padre Island National Seashore to develop and communicate the most current and relevant information on sea turtle science and conservation efforts to park visitors, the local community, students, and educators.
Country	United States

Project Description

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Padre Island National Seashore (PAIS), located on the Texas Gulf Coast, consists of 70 miles of undeveloped beach, the longest stretch of undeveloped barrier island in the world. The park protects dunes, coastal prairies, tidal flats, and the Laguna Madre, one of the few hypersaline lagoons in the world. It hosts over 380 bird species and the largest nesting beach for Kemp's ridley sea turtles in the United States, while the waters offshore are critical foraging habitat for sea turtles, birds, sharks and fish. This dynamic environment is popular with wildlife and people alike, a recreation destination for over half a million visitors annually who come to enjoy the beaches, fish, kayak, and view sea turtle hatchling releases.

The eIntern will work with the Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery supporting the following projects:

1. Develop and provide scientific communication and outreach products for park visitors and the local community regarding sea turtles and ocean conservation. The eIntern will receive training in NPS websites procedures and will work with NPS staff to update the sea turtle webpages and create content for the sea turtle social media platforms. The eIntern will provide information to park staff regarding sea turtle scientific monitoring and research projects at PAIS so that it may be incorporated into public programs and outreach

2. The eIntern will receive training on outreach and behavior change tools and will apply this knowledge to create content aimed at reducing negative human-wildlife interactions at PAIS. This outreach aims to reduce negative visitor interactions with stranded, nesting, and hatchling sea turtles, which may pose a risk to these endangered species. During recent years, park visitors have been reported engaging in behaviors that place the nesting and stranded sea turtles at risk, including touching, relocating, or removing sea turtles from the beach or placing them back in the water. The eIntern will be provided examples to observe and examine these interactions and develop content aimed at reducing undesirable visitor behavior and promoting sea turtle conservation and protection.

The eIntern's work will directly allow the Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery personnel to continue efforts toward research and conservation projects that directly contribute towards the recovery of endangered sea turtle species at PAIS. Updates and new content on the NPS PAIS website and social media platforms will allow the park and sea turtle program to communicate the most current and relevant information on sea turtle science and conservation efforts to park visitors, the local community, students, and educators. Exploring the

best communication methods for approaching a complicated natural resource conflict will provide the program with tools to better protect endangered species when similar visitor-wildlife incidences arise in the future.

Required Skills or Interests

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Design thinking

Educational design

Social media management

Writing

Additional Information

The eIntern should be working towards degree in communication, journalism, psychology, sociology, natural resources or related discipline. Previous coursework in ecology or oceanography, communications, or psychology would be beneficial. Strong writing skills, a high level of scientific and computer literacy, and a passion for sharing science with others are required. Fluency in English and Spanish, with the ability to write and speak both languages, is desired but not necessary.

Competitive applicants will have experience in web or social media analytics, web content generation, knowledge of metadata, and be able to share examples of previous web or social media content they have created.

Language Requirements

None